MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
VS.
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
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MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS

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Page

WOLVERINE **1**

On The Road
Part 2

"WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE"

The Battle of Titans, *Wolverine* faces off against *The Incredible Hulk!* But that's only the beginning—There's a far greater *threat* waiting just a little further along the road!

Writer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Penciler — DAVE ROSS
Inker — DAN DAY
Letterer — TODD KLEIN
Colorist — BRAD VANCATA

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WEREWOLF **9**

Children of the Beast
Part 2

"THE GATHERING STORM"

Jack Russell, desperate to find a cure for his condition, attempts to go to the original *source* of the blood curse. Meanwhile, other, more sinister forces are conspiring against him . . .

Writer — LEN KAMINSKI
Penciler — JIM FRY
Inker — BRAD JOYCE
Letterer — BRAD JOYCE
Colorist — GREGORY WRIGHT

Page

STINGRAY **17**

Family Matters
PART 3

"PURSUIT"

The villainous Tiger Shark is on the loose again! Having tricked an unwitting Guardsman and his brother-in-law, Dr. Walter Newell, into freeing him, Tiger Shark has escaped into the deep, making only one mistake: he's taken his sister—Newell's wife, Diane—with him!

Writer — LEN WEIN
Penciler — JIM FERN
Inker — MIKE DeCARLO
Letterer — TIM HARKINS
Colorist — BRAD VANCATA

Page

COLLECTIVE MAN **25**

"THE SONS OF MARY TAO-YU"

Han, Chang, Lin, Sun, and Ho Tao-Yu were separated from their parents when it was discovered these identical quintuplets had the power to merge their bodies to form a single Collective Man. Even more incredibly, they could draw the collective strength and intellect of all of Red China if need be. What they couldn't do was be reunited with their mother, until today . . .

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler — GREG LAROQUE
Inkers — HARRY CANDELARIO pgs. 1 & 6-8
BRAD VANCATA pgs. 2-5
Letterer — CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
Colorist — RENÉE WITTERSTAETTER

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ON THE ROAD with WOLVERINE and the HULK
PART 2
WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...
HEY BUB, LONG TIME NO SEE!
YEAH? NOT LONG ENOUGH FOR MY MONEY!
AND THE NAME IS HULK, NOT "BUB"!
ARE YOU SURE IT AIN'T "MR. FIXIT"?
ALWAYS THE CLEVER ONE, EH, WOLVERINE?
AS I REMEMBER IT, YOU'VE GONE THROUGH SOME NAME CHANGES YOURSELF!
HE'S RIGHT.
LAST TIME WE MET WAS IN MADRIPOOR.*
I WAS CALLING MYSELF PATCH THEN.
*WOLVERINE #12. --TERRY

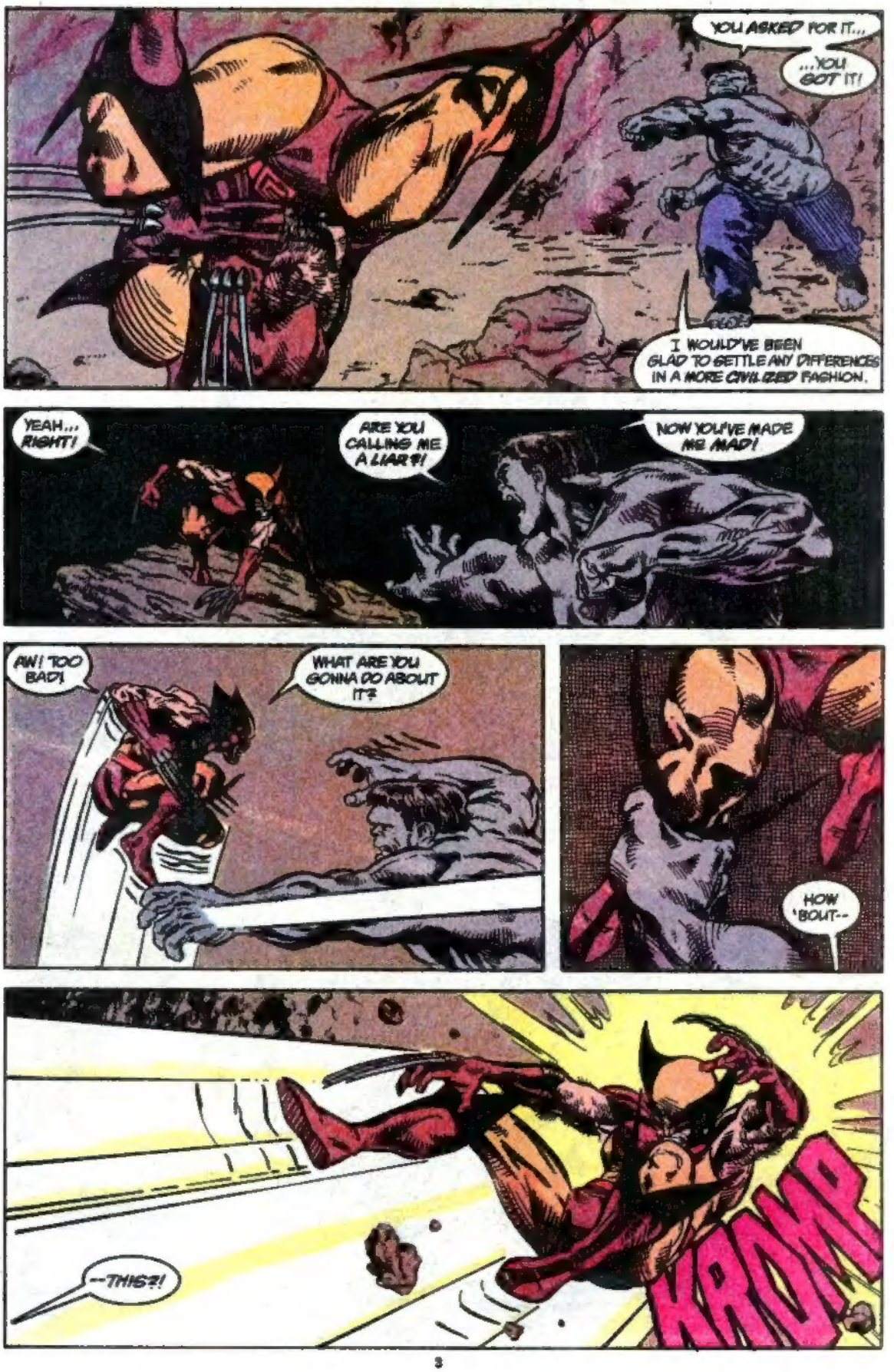
GUESS NO MATTER WHAT WE'RE CALLING OURSELVES, WE CAN'T CHANGE THE INEVITABLE.
WE CAN'T CHANGE OUR NATURE.
AND SO... THE FIGHT BEGINS!
ALL RIGHT, "HULK," LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!
HEY! IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?

HOLD ON!
AN' LET YOU GET FIRST LICKS?

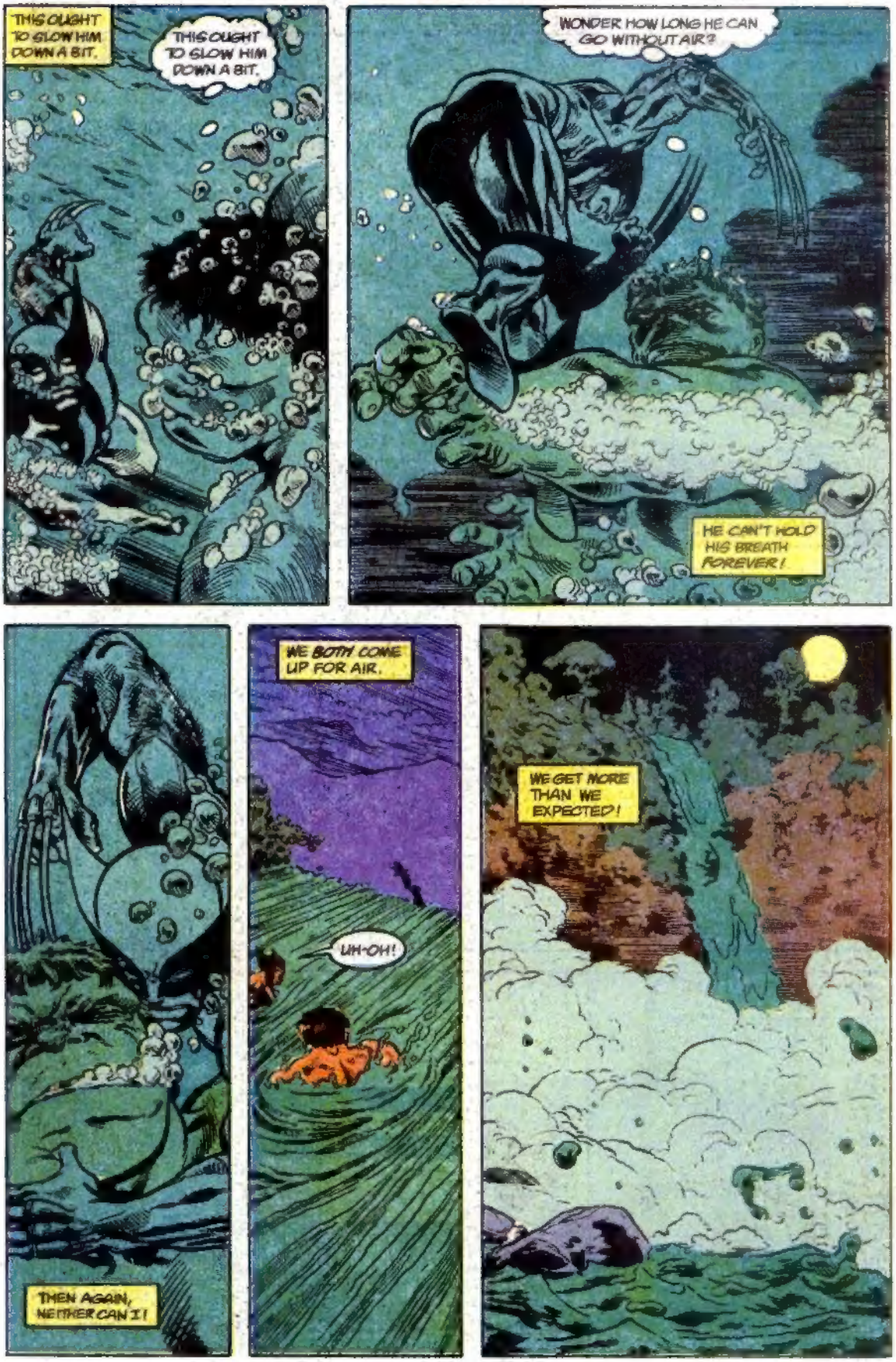
I MAY BE SHORT...

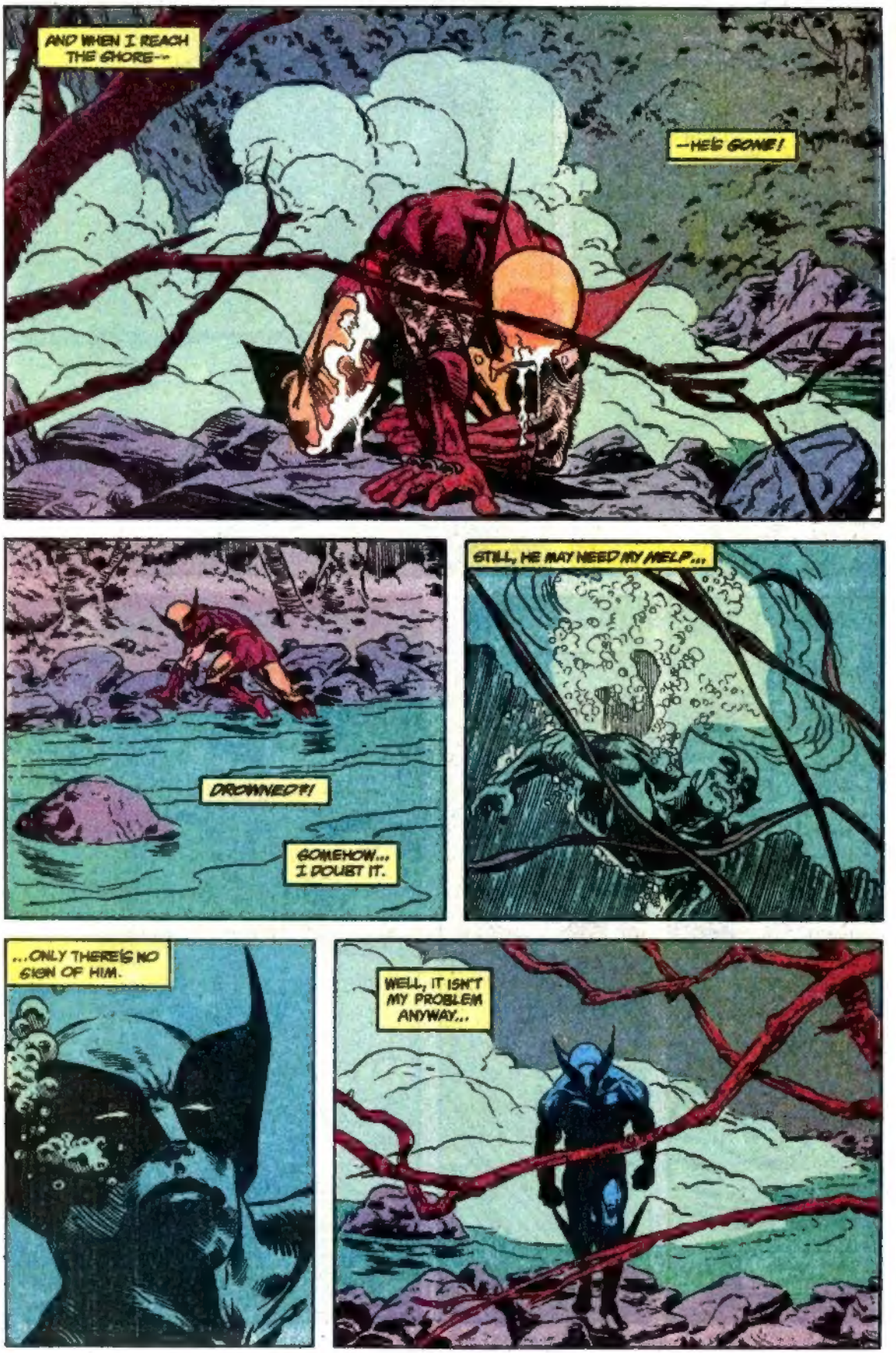
...BUT I'M NOT...

...STUPID...?


YOU ASKED FOR IT...
...YOU GOT IT!
I WOULD'VE BEEN GLAD TO SETTLE ANY DIFFERENCES IN A MORE CIVILIZED FASHION.
YEAH... RIGHT!
ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR?!
NOW YOU'VE MADE ME MAD!
AW! TOO BAD!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
HOW 'BOUT--
--THIS?!
KRUMP

HMMMPH!
CAN'T A MAN EVER FIND ANY--
--PEACE?!
AW, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO--
=GLUB GLUB=


THIS OUGHT TO SLOW HIM DOWN A BIT.
THIS OUGHT TO SLOW HIM DOWN A BIT.
WONDER HOW LONG HE CAN GO WITHOUT AIR?
HE CAN'T HOLD HIS BREATH FOREVER!
THEN AGAIN, NEITHER CAN I!
WE BOTH COME UP FOR AIR.
UH-OH!
WE GET MORE THAN WE EXPECTED!


AND WHEN I REACH THE SHORE--
--HE'S GONE!
DROWNED?!
SOMEHOW... I DOUBT IT.
STILL, HE MAY NEED MY HELP...
...ONLY THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM.
WELL, IT ISN'T MY PROBLEM ANYWAY...

...OR IS IT?
SURE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE HE NEEDED MY HELP!
QUESTION IS--NOW WHAT'S!
JEEZ! HE ISN'T EVEN MAKIN' A MOVE!
HE IS DIFFERENT!
I'M THE ONE WHO FLEW OFF THE HANDLE!
HEY, BUB--UH, HULK--
WHATSAY WE LET BYGONES BE BYGONES!
IT TAKES A MIGHTY BIG MAN TO ADMIT THAT HE'S WRONG!
UH... YEAH...
PUT 'ER THERE, PAL!
SOON...
SO... I FIGURED WHY LET ALL THAT BEAR MEAT GO TO WASTE?
IT'S THE TYPE OF MEAL I'M USED TO.
Y'KNOW... I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS SIDE OF YOU.
DON'T START GETTING SAPPY ON ME!
BESIDES... THERE ARE OTHER SIDES O' ME!
MORNING...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO LET ME OUT!
Y'MEAN, JUST STOP HERE?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO! YOUR REAL TROUBLE IS ABOUT TO START!
YOU THREATENIN' ME?
THOUGHT ALL THAT WAS BEHIND US!
SO, YOU'RE PARANOID, HUNH?

JUST FIGURED YOU'D WANNA KNOW YOU WERE OUT OF GAS!
OH! SORRY... YOU'RE JUST A HARD ONE TO PARK!
SIGN SAYS THERE'S A SERVICE STATION AT THIS EXIT. I'M GETTING OFF NOW.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE DROPPED ME OFF FIRST?
DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
IT WOULD HAVE... TO ME!
LOOK, HERE YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR BUSINESS AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF MINE!
YEAH... LATER!
THIS SHOULD COVER IT.
SURE WOULD... IF THIS REGISTER WAS WORKING.
I GOTTA MAKE A CALL.
SOMETHIN'S HAPPENIN' HERE!
IT'S HIM! I GOT THE GUY YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR-- THE KILLER-- FROM LAST NIGHT!
BETTER SPLIT BEFORE THERE'S ANY TROUBLE.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, FELLA!
HANDS OVER YOUR HEAD!
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?
YOU OUGHTTA KNOW BY NOW! 'ROUND THESE PARTS, WE DON'T JUST LET A MURDERER STROLL ON THROUGH!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'! I'M NO MURDERER!
COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE TWO GUYS WHO'D FIT YOUR DESCRIPTION!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA SPEND THE REST O' YOUR LIFE BEHIND BARS...
...THAT IS... IF YOU'RE LUCKY!

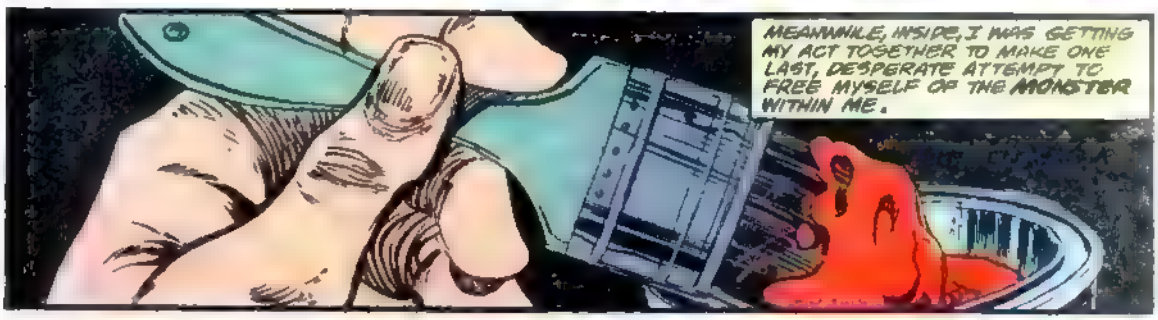
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

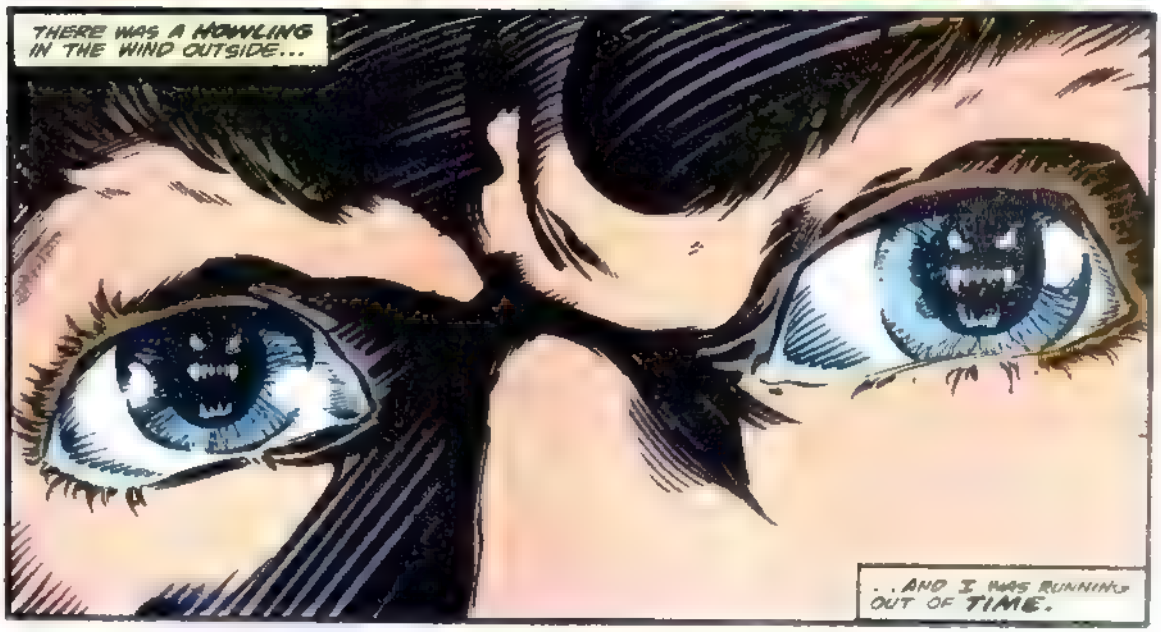
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT...

CHILDREN OF THE BEAST part 2

THE GATHERING STORM

JUST STICK WITH ME, AND IT'LL ALL MAKE SENSE EVENTUALLY.
HONEST.
IN THE MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE, THE NIGHT SKIES WERE FILLED WITH OMINOUS BLACK CLOUDS GATHERING THEMSELVES ABOVE, FORMING STRANGE PATTERNS.

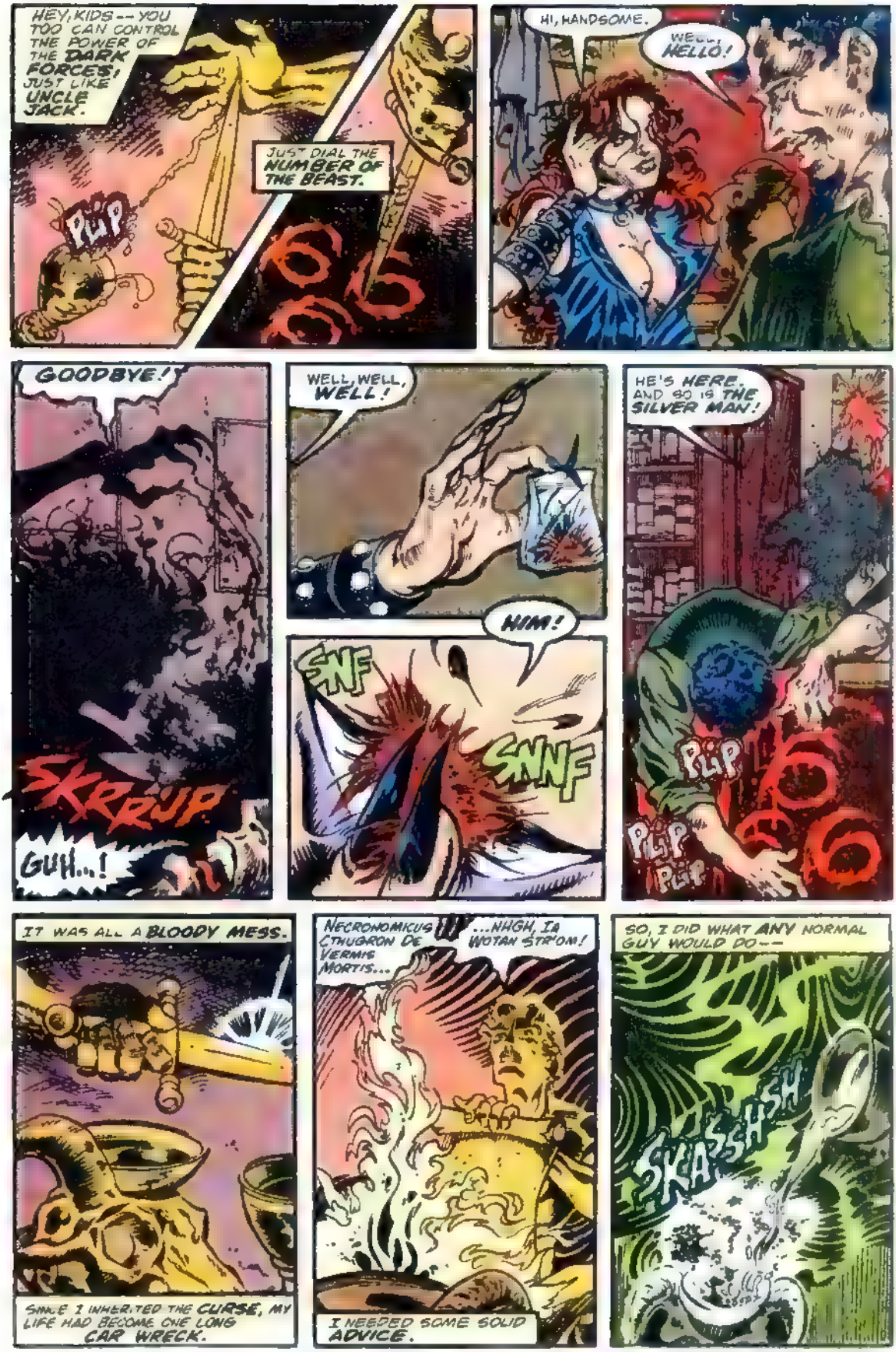

MEANWHILE, INSIDE, I WAS GETTING MY ACT TOGETHER TO MAKE ONE LAST, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO FREE MYSELF OF THE MONSTER WITHIN ME.



I'D DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO GET [redacted] AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY WEREWOLF PROBLEM
FIRST, I HAD TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING.
GIN CHING
BLIMEY!
NAME'S RUSSELL... I CONTACTED YOU SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ABOUT--
PLEASE, NOT OUT HERE. STEP INTO THE BACK ROOM, MR. RUSSELL.
YOU HAVE THE... EH... ITEM?
HELLO MY NAME IS Brandon
RIGHT HERE.
OH...
...MY.
IT SEEMS-- QUITE...AH...
...GENUINE...
...IT'S A DEAL.
MR. RUSSELL?
YEAH?
I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO ASK, BUT--WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN?
DON'T ASK.

HA.
MY PAL ZONTAR OBVIOUSLY HADN'T EXPECTED ME TO ACTUALLY COME THROUGH WITH MY OFFER...
...TO GET HIM SOME ACTUAL, U.S.D.A. PRIME GRADE "A" HAIR OF WEREWOLF TO TRADE FOR WHAT I NEEDED.
IRONICALLY ENOUGH, IF I COULD PULL MY PLAN OFF, THAT LITTLE BIT OF WEREWOLF FUR WOULD BE THE LAST I'D EVER HAVE TO DEAL WITH. I HOPED.
WHAT I'D GOTTEN IN RETURN FOR IT WAS A COPY OF LEMARCHAND'S MOURNING CALL -- ONE OF THE FEW NOT DESTROYED DURING THE INQUISITION.
WITHIN THIS PARCHMENT WAS A POWERFUL NECROMANTIC SPELL. ONE THAT, WITH LUCK, WOULD LEAD ME TO A CURE BY GOING TO THE ROOTS OF THE CURSE.
I'D STUDIED FOR MONTHS TO FIND THE RIGHT ONE, AND TO BE SURE I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN I GOT HOLD OF IT. I'D LEARNED A LOT.
AND YET, I COULDN'T ESCAPE THE CREEPING FEELING THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW...

. . AND I WAS RIGHT
MAY I HELP YOU?
I SEEK THIS MAN.
MMM.
I'M NOT REALLY SUPPOSED TO--
THINK VERY CAREFULLY.
I . . WELL, THAT IS . . . UM . . .
. . . HIS NAME'S RUSSELL.
GOT A PLACE UP IN THE HILLS. . . UM WAITA MINUTE THE ADDRESS... UMM HOLD ON, IT'S ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE--
LANDON ROAD!
YEAH, THAT'S IT... LANDON ROAD. UM, I DON'T KNOW THE NUMBER...
IT IS ENOUGH.
. . WELL . .
ARE YOU WITH ME SO FAR?

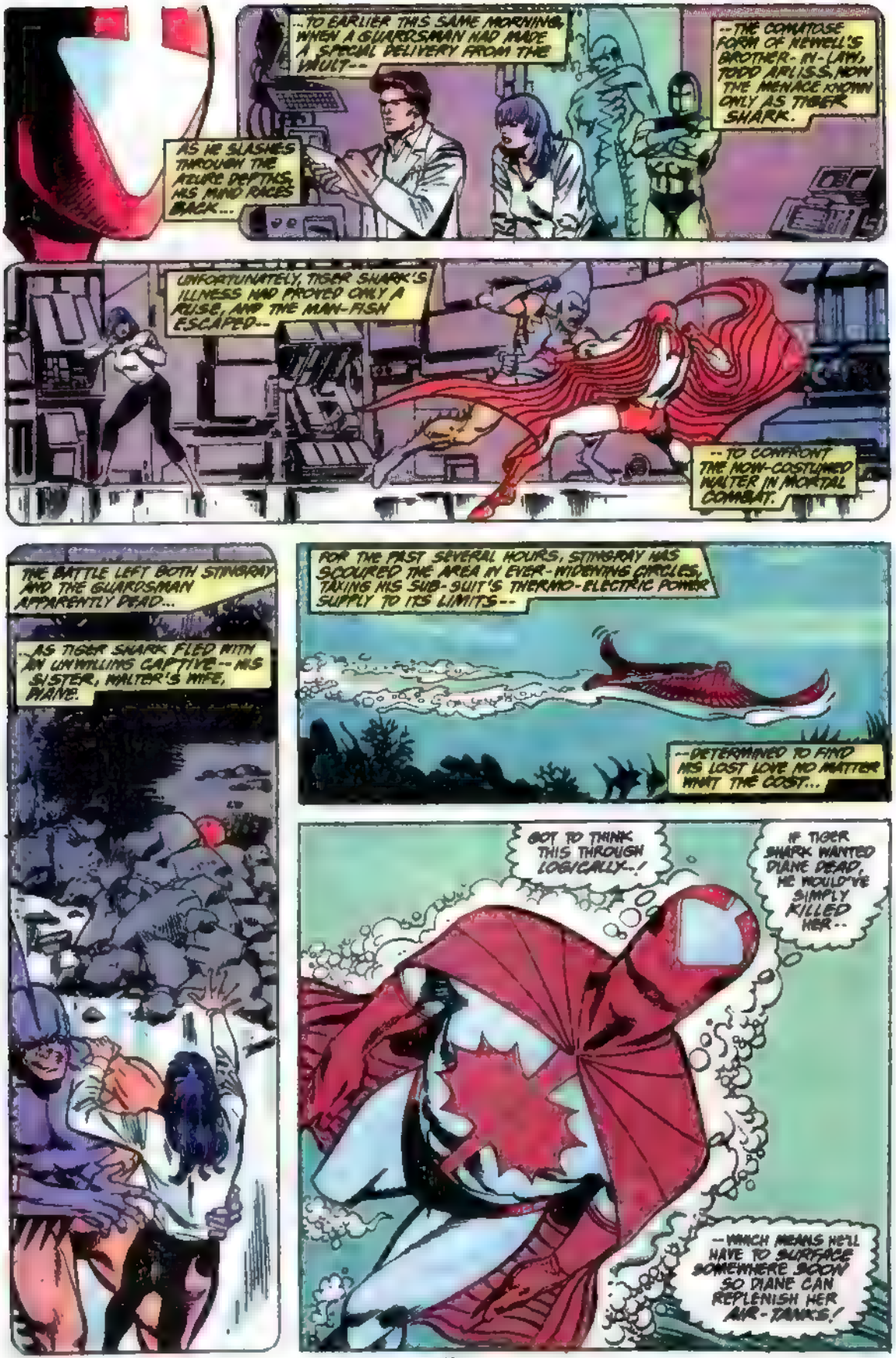

HEY, KIDS -- YOU TOO CAN CONTROL THE POWER OF THE DARK FORCES, JUST LIKE UNCLE JACK.
PUP
JUST DIAL THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST.
666
HI, HANDSOME.
WELL... HELLO!
GOODBYE!
SKRRUP
GUH...!
WELL, WELL, WELL!
HIM!
SNF
SNNF
HE'S HERE, AND SO IS THE SILVER MAN!
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
IT WAS ALL A BLOODY MESS.
SINCE I INHERITED THE CURSE, MY LIFE HAD BECOME ONE LONG CAR WRECK.
NECRONOMICUS CTHUGARON DE VERMIS MORTIS...
...NHGH, IA WOTAN STR'OM!
I NEEDED SOME SOLID ADVICE.
SO, I DID WHAT ANY NORMAL GUY WOULD DO --
SKASH
SKASH

--I CALLED MY DAD...
...LONG DISTANCE.
NOW ALL I HAD TO DO WAS THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY.
UM... HI, DAD.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
JACK...?
SON?
DAD...I NEED YOUR HELP. BAD.
I KNOW.
THE AURA OF DEATH SURROUNDS YOU.
IF YOU CANNOT END THE WAR BETWEEN YOUR DIVIDED SELVES, YOU WILL SOON DIE.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I NEED YOU...YOU'VE READ THE DARK-HOLD--
--HOW DO I END THE CURSE?
YOU CAN'T.
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY!
THERE HAS TO BE!
JACK...

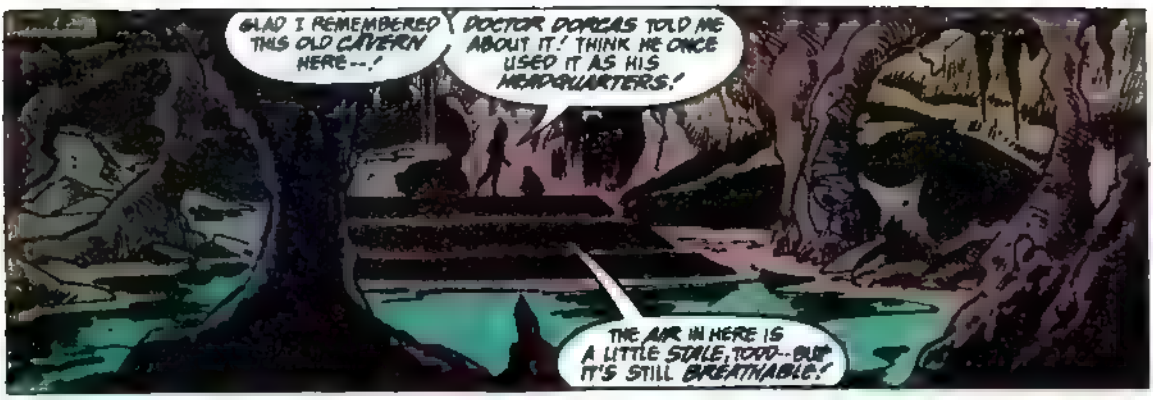
YOU CANNOT "CURE" YOURSELF OF THE [redacted] BECAUSE IT IS AN IRREVOCABLE PART OF YOUR BEING.
IT IS THE BEAST WITHIN ALL MEN.
IN YOUR CASE, IT HAS BEEN GIVEN ITS FREEDOM. ONCE FREED, IT WILL DIE RATHER THAN BE CAGED AGAIN.
AND IF IT DIES, YOU DIE.
IT WAS NOT ALWAYS THIS WAY WITH OUR KIND. LONG AGO, DURING THE TIME OF THE GREAT ICE, THE ELDER GODS GAVE CERTAIN MEN A GIFT--
--THE POWER TO TAKE THE FORM OF WOLVES AND BECOME CREATURES WITH THE BEST QUALITIES OF BOTH.
HOWEVER, AS THE MILLENNIA PASSED, THIS KNOWLEDGE WAS LOST, AND THE MEN FELL OUT OF HARMONY WITH THEIR PRIMAL SELVES.
WHAT HAD BEEN A GIFT BECAME THEN A CURSE, PASSED ON THROUGH BLOOD--A WILD POWER SPREAD INDISCRIMINATELY BY FANG AND CLAW AMONG THE INNOCENT.
WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT THE POWER LAY DORMANT IN OUR FAMILY LINE, I INVOKED IT, THINKING I COULD CONTROL IT. I WAS WRONG.
BUT YOU CAN SUCCEED WHERE I FAILED!
THE ORIGINAL POWER IS STILL THERE!
YOU MUST SEEK COMMUNION WITH YOUR BEAST. ACCEPT EACH OTHER. FIND THE BALANCE THAT WAS LOST. ONLY THEN CAN YOU FIND PEACE.
I PRAY YOU SUCCEED, MY SON.
ONE FINAL WARNING--
BEWARE THE GRANDCHILDREN...
WHAT?
THEN I MADE A STUPID MOVE.
I LEAPT FORWARD TO GRAB SOMETHING THAT WAS NEVER REALLY THERE TO BEGIN WITH.
WAIT...
ALL I GOT FOR MY EFFORT--
PLEASE...
--WAS A HANDFUL OF DUST.

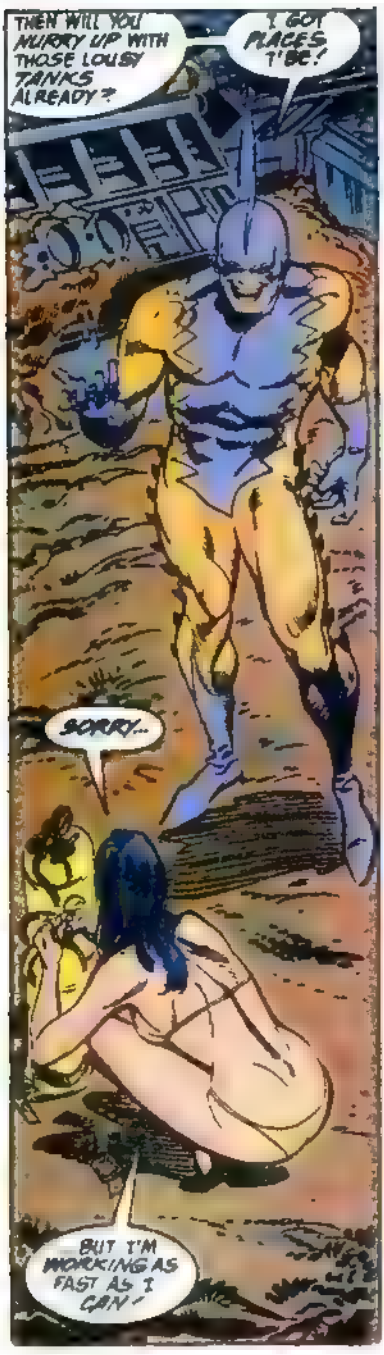
NOT TO MENTION AN EX-EDRIN HEADACHE...
...AND ONE HECK OF A MESS.
YECCH.
SO MUCH FOR MY BRILLIANT SCHEME.
STILL IT WAS A NICE TRICK.
TOO BAD IT ONLY WORKS ONCE.
BUKARK
WHAT THE--?
IT IS I, ISAIAH CURWEN--
--THE LORD'S SILVER DAGGER--
--YOUR EXECUTIONER!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

PORTRAIT OF A MAN OBSESSED!
ONCE, WHAT NOW SEEMS A LIFETIME AGO, HE WAS WALTER NEWELL, PROMINENT OCEANOGRAPHER AND HAPPILY-MARRIED MAN
NOW, CLAD IN HIS SUPREMELY-POWERFUL EXO-SKELETAL SUB-SUIT, HE IS A VENGEANCE-DRIVEN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION, THE AVENGER KNOWN ONLY AS
STINGRAY!
FAMILY MATTERS!
CHAPTER THREE
PURSUIT!


AS HE SLASHES THROUGH THE AZURE DEPTHS, HIS MIND RACES BACK...
...TO EARLIER THIS SAME MORNING, WHEN A GUARDSMAN HAD MADE A SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM THE VAULT--
--THE COMATOSE FORM OF NEWELL'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, TODD ARLISS, NOW THE MENACE KNOWN ONLY AS TIGER SHARK.
UNFORTUNATELY, TIGER SHARK'S ILLNESS HAD PROVED ONLY A RUSE, AND THE MAN-FISH ESCAPED--
--TO CONFRONT THE NOW-COSTUMED WALTER IN MORTAL COMBAT.
THE BATTLE LEFT BOTH STINGRAY AND THE GUARDSMAN APPARENTLY DEAD...
...AS TIGER SHARK FLED WITH AN UNWILLING CAPTIVE -- HIS SISTER, WALTER'S WIFE, DIANE.
FOR THE PAST SEVERAL HOURS, STINGRAY HAS SCOURED THE AREA IN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLES, TAXING HIS SUB-SUIT'S THERMO-ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY TO ITS LIMITS--
--DETERMINED TO FIND HIS LOST LOVE NO MATTER WHAT THE COST...
GOT TO THINK THIS THROUGH LOGICALLY--!
IF TIGER SHARK WANTED DIANE DEAD, HE WOULD'VE SIMPLY KILLED HER--
--WHICH MEANS HE'LL HAVE TO SURFACE SOMEWHERE SOON SO DIANE CAN REPLENISH HER AIR-TANKS!

QUESTION IS JUST WHERE THEY'LL--
EEK!
SOMETHING'S GRABBED MY LEG--!
TENTACLES--!
AND IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO GUESS WHO THEY BELONG TO--!
HAS TO BE A GIANT SQUID--
--AND HE'S OBVIOUSLY DECIDED I'M DINNER--!
TENTACLES HAVE PINNED MY ARMS TO MY SIDE--CAN BARELY MOVE--!
BUT WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT MY SUB-SUIT CAN GENERATE AN ELECTRICAL CHARGE OF 20,000 VOLTS--
--I DON'T HAVE TO!
SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR SLIPPER, FRIEND--BETTER LUCK LOOKING ELSEWHERE!
NOBODY'S EVER ACTUALLY SEEN A GIANT SQUID NOR--REALLY THIS WOULD'VE BEEN A MARINE BIOLOGIST'S DREAM--
--BUT I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR DISTRACTIONS RIGHT NOW!
JUST HANG ON, HONEY!
I'M COMING FOR YOU!


GLAD I REMEMBERED THIS OLD CAVERN HERE--!
DOCTOR DORCAS TOLD ME ABOUT IT! THINK HE ONCE USED IT AS HIS HEADQUARTERS!
THE AIR IN HERE IS A LITTLE STALE, TODD--BUT IT'S STILL BREATHABLE!

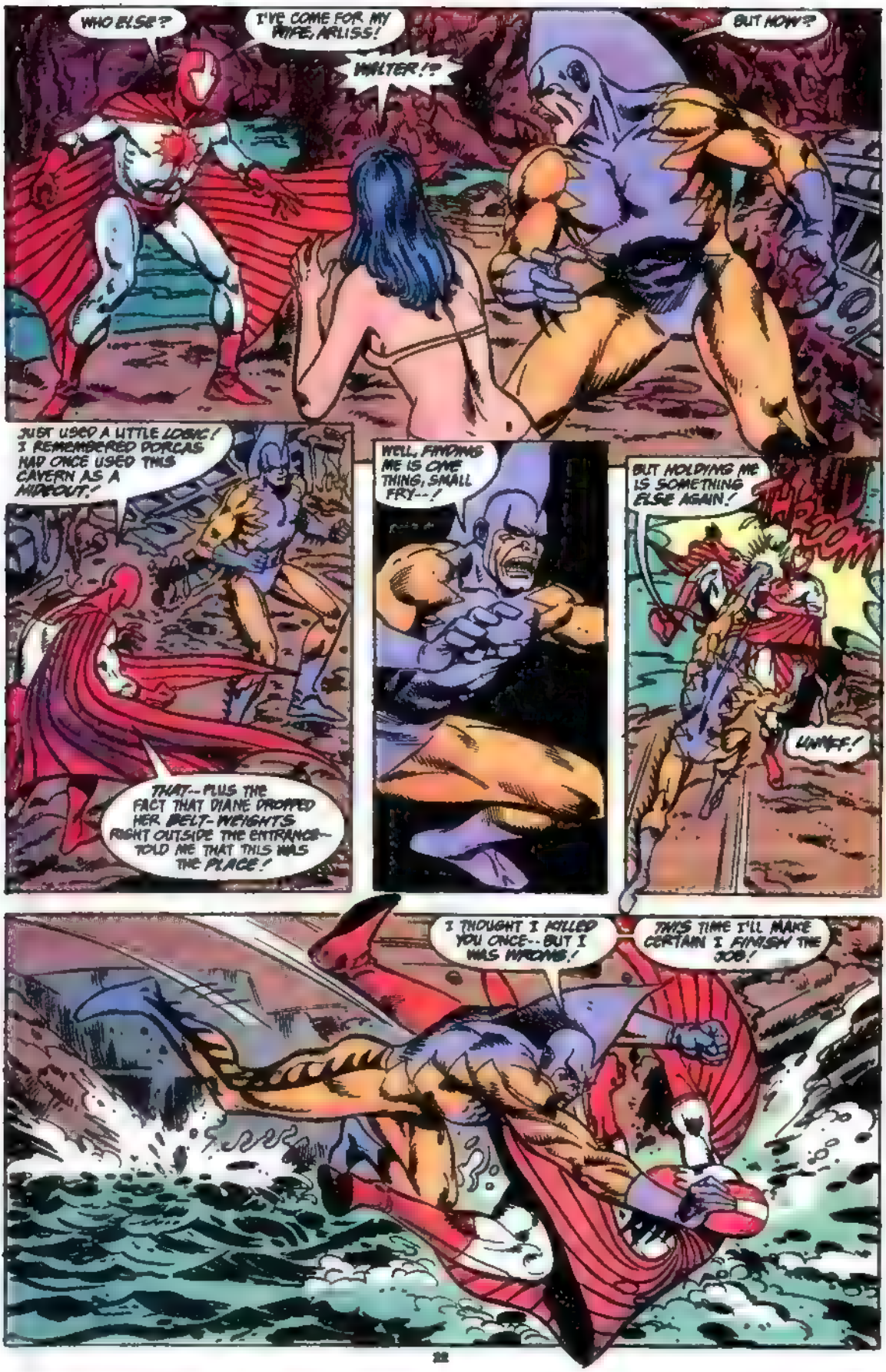

THEN WILL YOU HURRY UP WITH THOSE LOUSY TANKS ALREADY?
I GOT PLACES T'BE!
SORRY...
BUT I'M WORKING AS FAST AS I CAN!

LOOK, IF YOU'RE IN SUCH A HURRY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO ON WITHOUT ME?!
I REALLY WOULDN'T MIND--!

NO CHANCE, SISTER! WHEREVER I GO, YOU GO!
BUT WHY--?
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT FROM ME, TODD?

STOP IT, CURSE YOU!
WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME THAT?
BECAUSE IT'S YOUR NAME!
LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE STILL TODD ARLISS-- MY BROTHER!

NOT ANY MORE I'M NOT--
--NOT SINCE DORCAS TRANSFORMED ME!*
* WAY BACK IN THE CLASSIC SUB-MARINER #5--TERRY
TODD ARLISS IS DEAD, SISTER. YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT.
NOW THERE IS ONLY-- TIGER SHARK!
NO! I WON'T ACCEPT IT.
SOMEWHERE INSIDE YOU, THERE IS STILL A HEART-- STILL THE CAPACITY TO LOVE--!
YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF-- FIND YOUR LOST HUMANITY--!
GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE, TODD!
LET ME HELP YOU FIND THE WAY--!
NO!
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT BUT TIGER SHARK...
...AND IF I HAVE TO RIP YOUR PRETTY THROAT OUT TO PROVE IT--
--THEN THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I'LL DO!
THE DEVIL YOU WILL!
WHO--?!


WHO ELSE?
I'VE COME FOR MY WIFE, ARLISS!
WALTER!?
BUT HOW?
JUST USED A LITTLE LOGIC! I REMEMBERED PORCAS HAD ONCE USED THIS CAVERN AS A HIDEOUT!
THAT--PLUS THE FACT THAT DIANE DROPPED HER BELT-WEIGHTS RIGHT OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE--TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS THE PLACE!
WELL, FINDING ME IS ONE THING, SMALL FRY--!
BUT HOLDING ME IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN!
THUD
ZOOM
UMPF!
I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU ONCE--BUT I WAS WRONG!
THIS TIME I'LL MAKE CERTAIN I FINISH THE JOB!

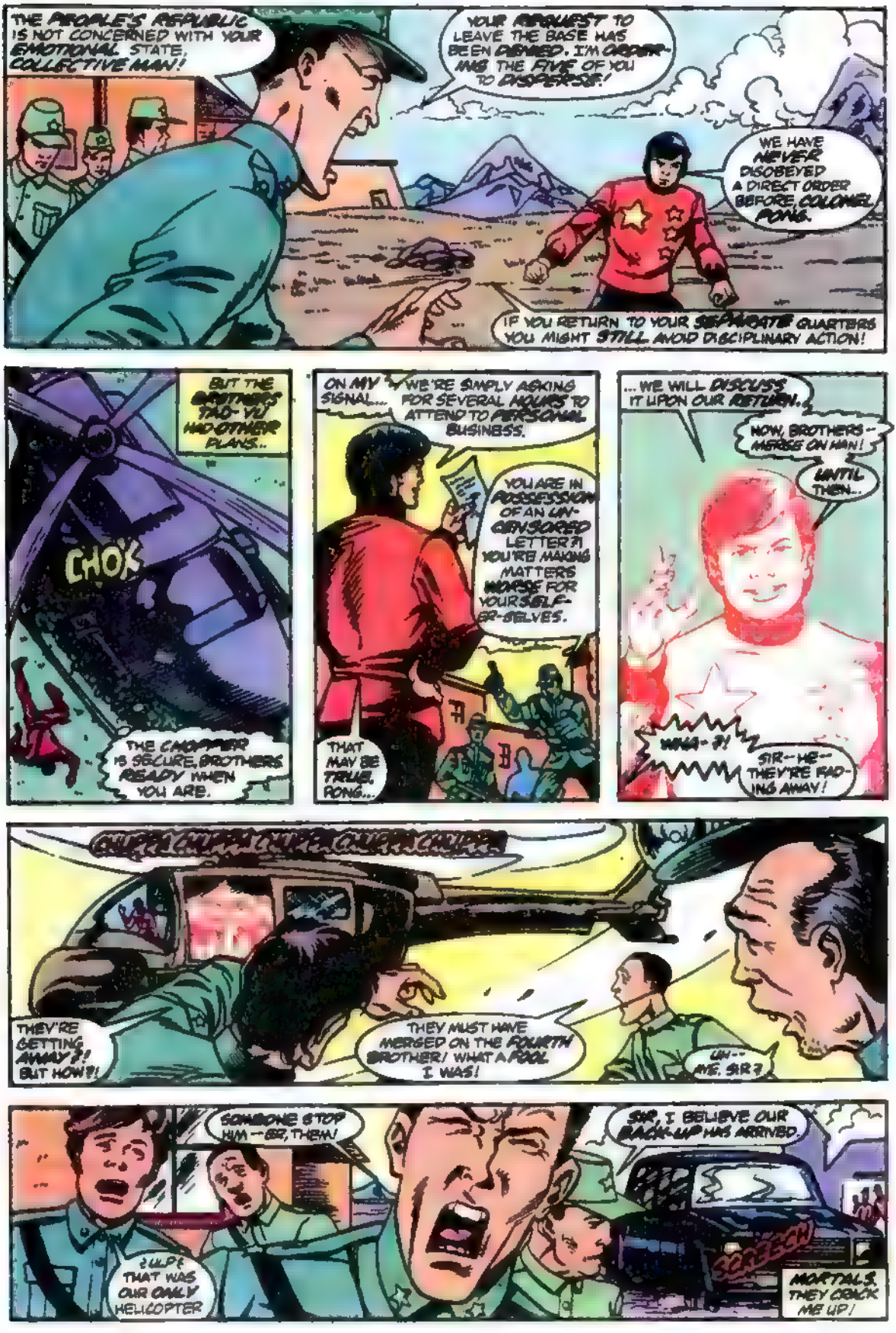
I'M GONNA CHEW YOU UP CHUMP--
--AND SPIT OUT THE BLOODY PIECES!
GOT TO USE HIS OWN MOMENTUM TO CARRY US OUT OF THE CAVERN--
--GET HIM AWAY FROM DIANE!
YOU MOVE FAST, LOVER BOY-- I'LL GIVE YOU THAT MUCH--
--BUT NOT NEARLY FAST ENOUGH!
UUHHHH!
BOOK
TODD, PLEASE-- STOP!
NICK, I INTEND TO DO A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN THAT, SIS...
--I INTEND T' SLAUGHTER--
HUH?!
THAT IS-- JUST ABOUT-- ENOUGH!
YOU'RE HURTING HIM--!

I'VE GONE EASY ON YOU, ARLISS, BECAUSE YOU'RE SICK--
WHUD
--BECAUSE YOU'RE MY WIFE'S BROTHER--
--BUT, FROM HERE ON, THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF!
IF NECESSARY, I'M GOING TO--
HT
THE GROUND-- WHY IS IT TREMBLING--?!
IT'S THE CAVERN--!
RRUMMBBLEE
OUR BATTLE MUST'VE UNDERMINED ITS SUPPORT PININGS--!
THE WHOLE PLACE IS COLLAPSING...
.. AND DIANE IS STILL INSIDE!
DIAAAAANE!
HANG ON, HONEY-- I'M COMING!
DIAAAAANE!
HA HA HA HA

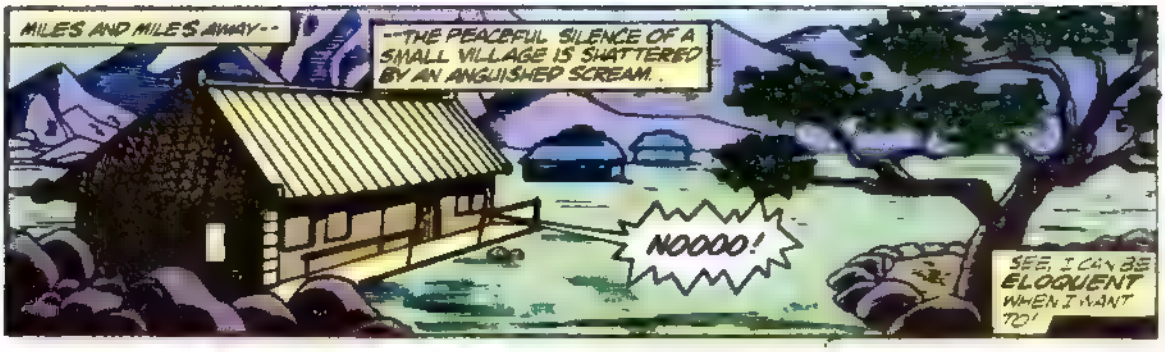
NEXT ISSUE: THE FINAL CHAPTER

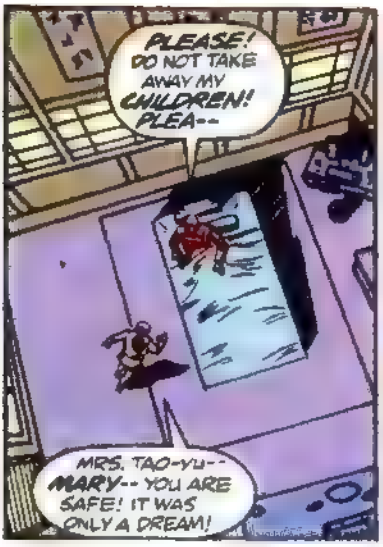
BROTHERLY LOVE!

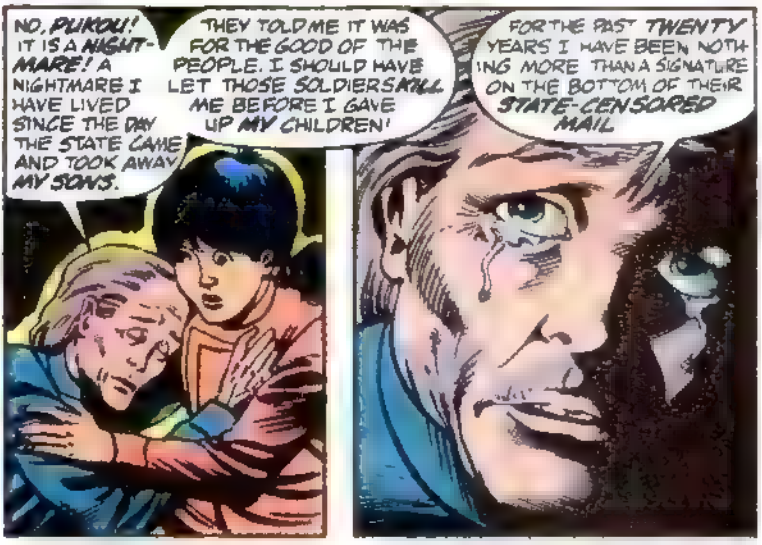
collective unman
SOMETIMES, IT SEEMS I HAVE LIVED FOREVER.
LIVED LIVED LIVED
IT GETS BORING AFTER THE FIRST CENTURY OR SO
BUT THIS STORY ISN'T ABOUT ME. NOT ENTIRELY
IT'S THE STORY OF
THE SONS OF MARY TAO-YU
YOU PEOPLE ARE REALLY STARTING TO ANNOY ME!
FIVE BROTHERS WHO CAN MERGE INTO ONE BODY
ON THE DAY I MET THEM, THEY WERE MAD.
MAD MAD MAD
ENTIRE STORY TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE: ED.

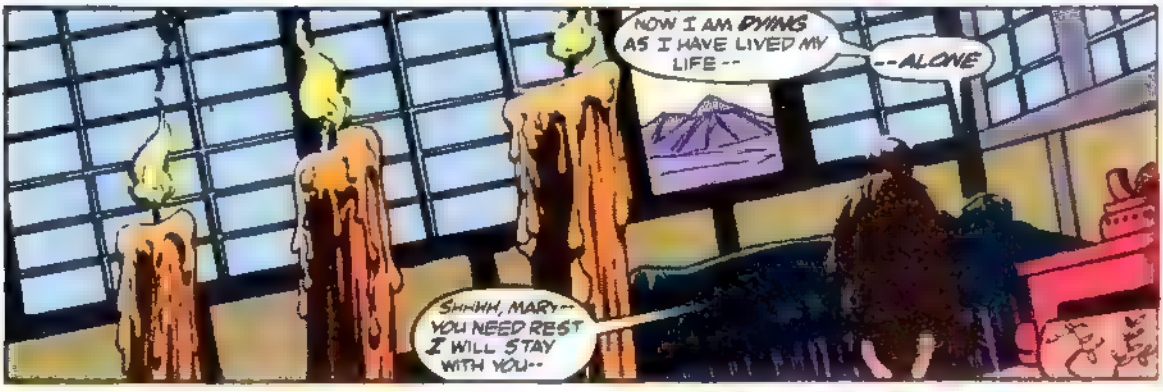

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IS NOT CONCERNED WITH YOUR EMOTIONAL STATE, COLLECTIVE MAN!
YOUR REQUEST TO LEAVE THE BASE HAS BEEN DENIED. I'M ORDERING THE FIVE OF YOU TO DISPERSE!
WE HAVE NEVER DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER BEFORE, COLONEL PONG.
IF YOU RETURN TO YOUR SEPARATE QUARTERS YOU MIGHT STILL AVOID DISCIPLINARY ACTION!
BUT THE BROTHERS TAO-YU HAD OTHER PLANS..
CHOK
THE CHOPPER IS SECURE, BROTHERS. READY WHEN YOU ARE.
ON MY SIGNAL...
WE'RE SIMPLY ASKING FOR SEVERAL HOURS TO ATTEND TO PERSONAL BUSINESS.
YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF AN UNCENSORED LETTER?! YOU'RE MAKING MATTERS WORSE FOR YOURSELF-ER-SELVES.
THAT MAY BE TRUE, PONG...
... WE WILL DISCUSS IT UPON OUR RETURN..
WOW, BROTHERS -- MERGE ON HIM!
UNTIL THEN...
WHA-?!
SIR -- HE -- THEY'RE FADING AWAY!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY?! BUT HOW?!
THEY MUST HAVE MERGED ON THE FOURTH BROTHER! WHAT A FOOL I WAS!
UH -- ME, SIR?
SOMEONE STOP HIM -- ER, THEM!
SIR, I BELIEVE OUR BACK-UP HAS ARRIVED.
¿ULP? THAT WAS OUR ONLY HELICOPTER
SCREECH
MORTALS. THEY CRACK ME UP!

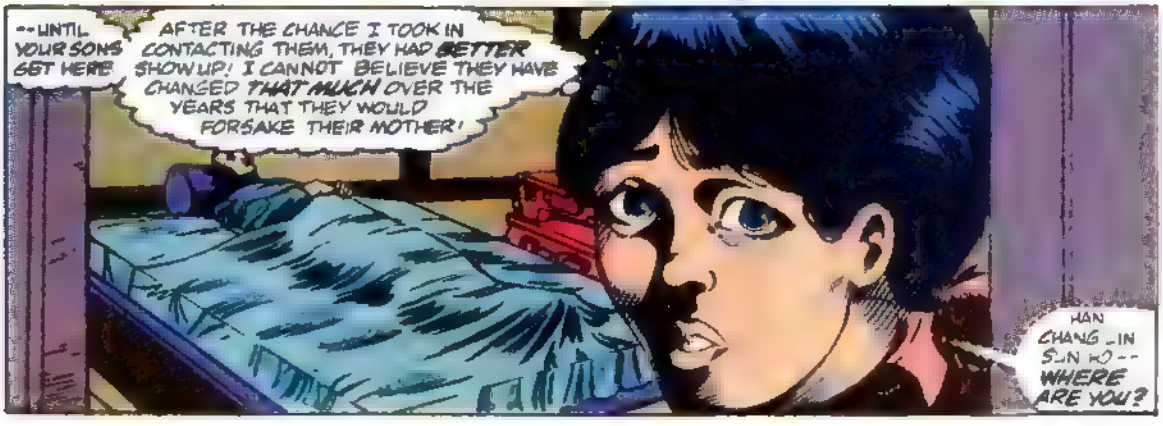
IS THIS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE?! I CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS AND THEY SEND A SINGLE BUREAUCRAT IN A LIMOUSINE?! I WILL HAVE SOMEONE'S HEAD FOR THIS!
I THINK NOT-- IN FACT, I AM SURE NOT!
PONGPERSON-- I, HO TI, CHOSE TO SERVE THE STATE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THEIR PRECEPTS OF UNIVERSAL HARMONY ON THE OTHER HAND, I WILL SMOOSH YOU IF YOU TALK RUDE TO ME.
I-I AM SORRY, SIR!
NO "SIR!" GOD! GOD OF HAPPY-NESS!
AS I GIVE HEARTED BANGBANG CHASE, YOU ANTS WILL PREPARE THE TRAITORS' CELL-HOME. THE MANYMAN MUST NOT CORRUPT THE INTEGRITY OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL.
Y-YES, YOUR MOST HOLY HIGHNESS!
PLEASE-- DO NOT GROVEL UNLESS YOU MEAN IT.
SO OFF I BILLOWED, A GOD IN SEARCH OF A CONGREGATION.
HE HE HE HE HE HE HE HE HE HE HE HE HE HE
I BELIEVED THAT IF THE COLLECTIVE MAN STRAYED THIS ONCE, FOR WHATEVER THEIR REASON, IT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO ASSERT THEIR FREE WILL NEXT TIME.
AS ANYONE KNOWS, FREE WILL IS DETRIMENTAL TO HAPPINESS.
MEANWHILE...
THAT IS NOT TRUE, LIN, TAKE IT BACK!
I WILL NOT! YOU ARE SO AFRAID OF THE STATE THAT YOU WOULD RATHER HAVE STAYED BACK THERE AND COWERED!
LIN! SUN! STOP YOUR FIGHTING-- WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THAT!
MAN IS RIGHT! YOU TWO SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT THE TASK AT HAND.
I AM SORRY, HO.
AND I AM SORRY I HAVE A BROTHER WHO IS A COWARD!
WHY, YOU--!
CHUFFA CHUFFA!
AND THEY FOUGHT.
FOUGHT FOUGHT... FOUGHT


MILES AND MILES AWAY--
--THE PEACEFUL SILENCE OF A SMALL VILLAGE IS SHATTERED BY AN ANGUISHED SCREAM..
NOOOO!
SEE, I CAN BE ELOQUENT WHEN I WANT TO!


PLEASE! DO NOT TAKE AWAY MY CHILDREN! PLEA--
MRS. TAO-YU-- MARY-- YOU ARE SAFE! IT WAS ONLY A DREAM!


NO, PUKOU! IT IS A NIGHT-MARE! A NIGHTMARE I HAVE LIVED SINCE THE DAY THE STATE CAME AND TOOK AWAY MY SONS.
THEY TOLD ME IT WAS FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE. I SHOULD HAVE LET THOSE SOLDIERS KILL ME BEFORE I GAVE UP MY CHILDREN!
FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS I HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN A SIGNATURE ON THE BOTTOM OF THEIR STATE-CENSORED MAIL

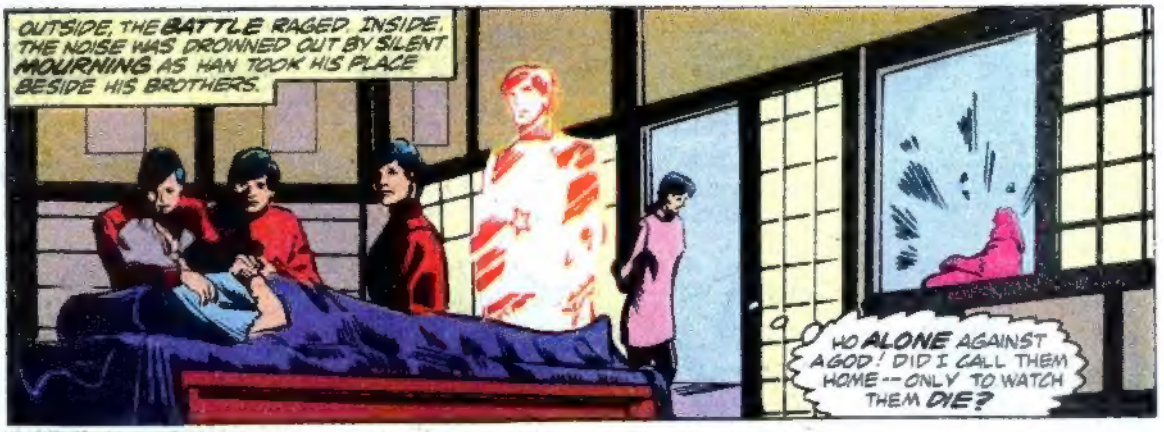

NOW I AM DYING AS I HAVE LIVED MY LIFE --
--ALONE
SHHHH, MARY-- YOU NEED REST I WILL STAY WITH YOU--


--UNTIL YOUR SONS GET HERE
AFTER THE CHANCE I TOOK IN CONTACTING THEM, THEY HAD BETTER SHOW UP! I CANNOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE CHANGED THAT MUCH OVER THE YEARS THAT THEY WOULD FORSAKE THEIR MOTHER!
HAN CHANG-IN SUN-KO-- WHERE ARE YOU?

HOURS PASSED. SLEEP EMBRACED BOTH WOMEN UNTIL A SOUND ONCE AGAIN INTRUDED. THIS TIME IT WENT.
CHUPPA
EH? THAT SOUND-- COMING FROM THE FRONT LAWN.
CHUPPACHUPPACHO
THEY HAVE COME JUST AS I KNEW THEY WOULD. BUT ARE THEY TOO LATE?
QUICKLY-- MARY HAS BEEN CALLING FOR YOU!
PUKOU! OUR MOTHER-- IS SHE OKAY?!
YOU MUST UNDER-STAND..
..SHE WILL BE NOOOWWW--
--THAT LIGHT!
I LOVE TO MAKE A BIG ENTRANCE!
HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO
BROTHERS-- SEEK SAFETY!
LINK
GREETINGS, BROTHERS OF TAO-YU! I AM HO TI, GOD OF HAPPINESS! I AM HERE TO RETURN YOU TO YOUR SUPERIORS! IT WOULD BE THE SOURCE OF MUCH JOY FOR ME IF YOU RESIST.
PLEASE-- JUST A LITTLE...
I
DO
NOT
BELIEVE
THIS

WE WILL DO MUCH MORE THAN "RESIST"--WE WILL PERSEVERE!
MERGE ON ME, BROTHERS!
IT WAS A NEAT TRICK! I DID NOT HAVE TIME TO APPLAUD
ALSO IT WAS VERY USELESS BECAUSE EVEN AS A SINGLE BEING THEY HAD NO CHANCE OF DEFEATING ME
NONE, NONE NONE!
IF YOU ARE THE GOD YOU CLAIM TO BE, YOU WOULD NOT STOP US FROM GOING TO OUR MOTHER'S [redacted]
IF ONLY YOU WOULD STOP THERE, OH PLURAL ONE.
TAKE IT FROM A BEING OLDER THAN THE STARS--
--ONCE YOU HAVE TASTED THE FRUIT OF FREE CHOICE, YOU WILL GAG ON THE ROOTS OF SERVITUDE! YOUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE PEOPLE--NOT TO THE OLD WOMAN WHO ABANDONED YOU!
LIAR!
SHRRR.
KRUK!
OF COURSE I KNEW THAT ONE OF THEM WAS MISSING...
WE HAVE LEARNED THAT IS BUT ONE OF MANY LIES ON WHICH WE WERE RAISED! SHE STRUGGLED TO--?UNNNNG!
...I JUST DID NOT THINK IT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
MOTHER?
LIN? IS THAT YOU?
TWENTY YEARS AND SHE KNEW HIM AT FIRST GLANCE.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS STRANGE.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, AND STILL YOU CAME. I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME
NOT ONCE. NOT FOR A MOMENT.

WE HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO THE HAPPINESS OF THE PEOPLE -- OFTEN AT THE LOSS OF OUR OWN! WE STAYED AWAY FROM HOME BECAUSE WE WERE TOLD THAT WAS OUR MOTHER'S WISH.
HE HE HE HE HE HE
THUNK
NOW THAT WE KNOW SHE IS DYING, NOTHING WILL KEEP US FROM HER SIDE!
SUN 7!
I AM SORRY, MY BROTHERS.
SEE! ALREADY YOUR LOYALTIES ARE SPLIT! IF YOU CANNOT BE TRUSTED TO DEFEND YOURSELVES, HOW CAN YOU BE TRUSTED TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE?
OUR OBJECTIVE IS NOT TO DEFEND OURSELVES. OUR GOAL IS TO COMFORT OUR MOTHER IN HER FINAL MOMENTS. WE ARE UNITED IN OUR DESTINATION!
BINK
CHANG, QUICKLY -- JOIN LIN AND SUN!
I AM HERE! YOU MUST HURRY.
HA! TWO OF YOU LEFT TO STAND AGAINST ME! HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO DEFEAT A GOD?!
WATCH CLOSELY.
BUT AS THE FOURTH BROTHER BEGAN TO FADE, SO DID MY AMUSEMENT.
SO, MY LITTLE NAME-SAKE, ONLY YOU ARE LEFT TO CHALLENGE ME!
FOOLISH GOD -- YOU HAVE ALREADY LOST!
JUST THEN, I DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE MEANT.
I DID NOT KNOW HE WAS RIGHT.

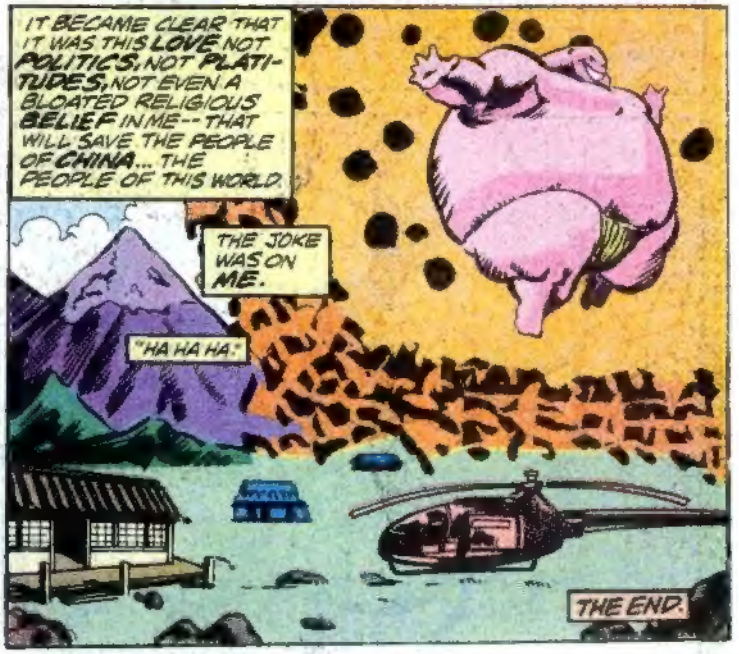

OUTSIDE, THE BATTLE RAGED. INSIDE, THE NOISE WAS DROWNED OUT BY SILENT MOURNING AS HAN TOOK HIS PLACE BESIDE HIS BROTHERS.
HO ALONE AGAINST A GOD! DID I CALL THEM HOME -- ONLY TO WATCH THEM DIE?

DO NOT FEAR THAT YOU WILL BE LONELY IN DEATH! SOON YOUR BROTHERS WILL JOIN YOU!
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. WE HAVE GOTTEN THAT WHICH WE WANTED. DEATH, AT THIS POINT--
--IS INCONSEQUENTAL.

PTING

AS I TURNED TO COMPLETE THE BATTLE, I WAS CONFUSED BY THE PRESENCE OF A HAPPINESS THAT ECLIPSED MY OWN...

IN THAT MOMENT, I WAS BLINDED AS I REALIZED THE ROOT OF THAT HAPPINESS WAS THE LOVE OF A MOTHER FOR HER CHILDREN.
IT WAS ALSO THE LOVE OF A BROTHER/SON TO GIVE HIS LIFE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR MOTHER'S HAPPINESS.


IT BECAME CLEAR THAT IT WAS THIS LOVE NOT POLITICS, NOT PLATITUDES, NOT EVEN A BLOATED RELIGIOUS BELIEF IN ME -- THAT WILL SAVE THE PEOPLE OF CHINA... THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD.
THE JOKE WAS ON ME.
"HA HA HA."
THE END.

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016

Attention correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

TERRY KAVANAGH
Editor

KELLY CORVESE
Assistant Editor

Dear Marvel,

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS is great. It exposes lesser known talents, lesser known characters (what 60's love cult did you kidnap that walking Nirvana of comic-dom, the Aquarian, from?) and best of all (for the hordes of comic junkies out there) it's biweekly!

Nevertheless, due to my incredibly well-honed sense of observation, I was able to detect a flaw in this otherwise excellent book. In MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #46, on page 8, (as a multitude of No-Prize crazed readers have already informed you) Wolverine (the dude with the uncrunchable, uncrackable, unbreakable adamantium skeleton) says "My right hand was broken at the wrist." An impossibility, you say? Perhaps for those of you who do not possess the knowledge of the human psyche which I have gleaned from long years of study under Doctor Strange. What happened is this: Wolverine was touched by the shadow of that paranoid, schizophrenic (and fat) mutant. This touch (besides being cold and deadly and what not) also imparted to Wolverine a brief touch of his insanity. Wolverine did not in fact have a broken wrist, he merely hallucinated it. Pretty amazing, huh? Nevertheless, the effect was but temporary (though I recommend that Wolverine seek therapy in order to completely erase the distasteful incident from his mind). There is my answer and I do hope you would be so kind as to please, please send me a No-Prize as a reward for my years of study. I'll be waiting . . .

Cliff Hilburn
Rt. 4, P.O. Box 433
Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Cliff, if Marvel gave out some sort of award for the most prolific (and original) user of parentheses (in a letter) we would definitely give it to you. But that doesn't exist (right now), and we don't feel you deserve a No-Prize. You'll have to read on for the reason (and yes, you were right, some other readers noticed the same "mistake" you did) . . .

Dear Marvel People,

First off, let me say I think you guys do a great job and I understand that you are all human, and that humans do make mistakes. I would like to bring up the point that in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #46 on page 8 of the Wolverine "Black Shadow-White Shadow" story there is mention that Wolvie has broken his wrist (1st panel). Isn't it true that adamantium can't be broken, marred, scratched, etc.? I believe you told us that in the MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOKS.

I would like to think that he just tore a ligament, and that his healing factor does take care of it before the following panel. But I don't think that even his healing power can heal broken adamantium.

I think that you have some fast explaining to do or this is No-Prize material.

I am the number one fan of Wolvie, though a lot of people will argue that point, and follow him closely (or at least try to). Keep up the great work and, as always, Make Mine Marvel.

Amanda J. Hutto
1956 S. 1100 E.
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

Sorry, Amanda, but you don't get a No-Prize. Even if we had made a mistake (which we didn't), you would've had to create an answer for us, like Cliff (the parentheses master) did for us.

Dear Marvel,

"My right hand was broken at the wrist." Broken? I (who have the phrase "unbreakable adamantium bones" firmly etched into my consciousness) am still reeling from the shock. Yes, I am simply too stunned to even try for a No-Prize. I cannot account for it at all. Please, tell me it was all a bad dream.

By the way, Wolvie had been looking a mite odd these last few issues. Admittedly, the man is a physical powerhouse, but let's not overdo it. Those teeth, that jaw, those thighs. Too much of a good thing, maybe. In spite of which I have been enjoying "Black Shadow-White Shadow" very much.

I liked the start of the Devil Slayer story. He is such an interesting character that this one can't help but be good.

Aquarian didn't do much for me, I'm afraid. Sort of strange and metaphysical, but maybe I just didn't get it.

The Sub-Mariner story was my favorite of the four. I hope it lays to rest all that grumbling about the inadequacy of one-shot features. The story had plenty of depth and the art was great too. I always look forward to meeting new characters and old favorites in the pages of M.C.P. (I loved the Rintrah story in issue #44). Long live the one-shot! Thanks for umpty-million hours of outstanding reading enjoyment.

Ellen Jacobs
126 Pleasant St. #2
Marblehead, MA 01945

Glad you liked the issue, Ellen, but we don't think it was a mistake to have Wolverine saying he broke his wrist. You'll see, everyone, that if we all take out our MARVEL UNIVERSE HANDBOOKS and look at the Wolverine entry, his bones are laced with adamantium, but nowhere does it say that his joints are like that too. What he broke was the joint separating his arm from his hand (which is something that he can break). Maybe it's more proper to call it a dislocation, but no one ever considered Wolverine the most eloquent of people. Now, stop asking for No-Prizes!

Dear Marvel,

I am writing in an attempt to get a No-Prize. On the cover to issue #46, Sub-Mariner had an earring, but on the inside he didn't. I think a mutant with the ability to change shape kidnaped the Sub-Mariner and went on the cover in his place. Please say I get a No-Prize. Please.

Adam Parkin
420 11th St. #215
New West, BC Canada
V3M 4E8

No, Adam, no. Maybe he just took it off, okay?!?

Dear Marvel,

I've waited patiently. I've endured countless chances for my favorite Marvel character to reappear.

I thought to myself, surely with MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, my favorite super hero could make a dramatic return, but noooo!

I've waited 50 issues to see his return after five years of being vanquished to space. I've even endured seeing his name as a possibility for membership in the Avengers.

Who is he, you ask?

The Jack of Hearts!!!

I decided for quite some time now that I would write my own Jack of Hearts story because I couldn't wait for you guys to write them. I've all but solved his crisis that led him to self-imposed exile. It was so obvious to me that the reason why his powers were building up to uncontrollable levels was because the sun was interfering with the Zero Fluid in his system.

You can bring in Tony Stark (the designer of the Jack of Hearts' built-in computer). You can explore the possibilities that Jack was not actually alien. Also, the Contraxian sun may die out again or the Zero Fluid could begin to fizzle out. So much to do, yet so little done! See what you can do.

Ian Cruzen
6711 Romona Blvd.
Houston, TX 77086

Hey, thanks,Ian. You pretty much covered all of the bases in your letter. Now we don't have to run a story about the Jack of Hearts. Boy, that lifts the weight off our shoulders. Thanks again! Ha ha, only kidding, we'll see what we can do about putting in a Jack of Hearts story (or saga, if the demand is there), as soon as the results of our readers poll come in.

IN TWO WEEKS:

Wolverine and the **Hulk** follow separate paths to the same enemy—someone from both their pasts!

Werewolf by Night vs. the man who killed Dr. Strange—Silver Dagger!

The shocking conclusion to the **Stingray** storyline—featuring a stunning surprise!

Speedball, the New Warrior, battles a clown gone mad!

STINGRAY
FINALLY FINDS HIS KIDNAPPED WIFE— BUT IT MAY BE TOO LATE!
WEREWOLF
BY NIGHT... CONFRONTS THE GHOST OF HIS FATHER!
collective inman
BATTLES A GOD GONE MAD!
RICHARDSON